

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 AF-10 ARA-06
NEA-10 L-03 SS-15 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSC-05
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /101 W
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R 290529Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 308
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2988

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AS, SHUM, ECOSOC, UN
SUBJECT: UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS: AUSTRALIAN CANDIDACY

1. DFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAN CALLED IN POL COUNSELOR TO MAKE STRONG PITCH FOR AUSTRALIAN MEMBERSHIP ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. DAN MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: (1) THERE ARE FOUR WEO CANDIDATES FOR THREE POSITIONS - U.S., FRANCE, FRG, AND AUSTRALIA. GOA SUPPORTS U.S. AND FRENCH CANDIDACIES BUT BELIEVES IT SHOULD HAVE THIRD POSITION IN PREFERENCE TO FRG BECAUSE THE FRG IS CURRENTLY A COMMISSION MEMBER AND IS SEEKING ELECTION TO SEVEN OTHER UN BODIES. (2) GOA HAS NOT BEEN REPRESENTED ON COMMISSION SINCE 1956. (3) IN INTEREST WEO HARMONY, GOA WITHDREW IN FAVOR OF OTHER CANDIDATES IN 1974, 75, 76. (4) GOA ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR GIVEN PRESIDENT CARTER'S STRONG EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. COMMENT: DAN ALSO SAID OFF THE RECORD THAT BOTH PRIME MINISTER FRASER AND FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK ARE CONCERNED ABOUT "INTERNAL POLITICAL CRITICISM" IF GOA REFUSED COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP. BOTH FEEL STRONGLY THAT HAVING PRESENTED
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CANDIDACY GOA MUST WIN IN ORDER TO AVOID OPPOSITION CRITICISM RE "AN ALLEGED LACK OF POPULARITY" WHEN IT COMES TO VOTES FROM THEIR ALLIES. END COMMENT. PERCIVAL

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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TAGS: SHUM, AORG, AS, XX, ECOSOC, UN
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